

MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM, Inc.



M-DTS NEWSLETTER, October 2005

M-DTS WORK PARTY -- 9:00 a.m., Sunday, October 30
M-DTS MEMBERS' MEETING -- 2:00 p.m., Sunday, October 30

Work Party: Meet at the Wrightsville boat launch on Rte 624. We will work on the off road "Murphy Hollow" relocation. Equipment needed: mattocks, digging bars, chain saw, brush cutter, loppers, paint set-up. All workers should bring: work gloves, eye protection, lunch and water.

Members Meeting: Meet at the Hooper residence.

Directions: From north: From Rt 30 -- westbound from Lancaster or eastbound from York: Get off at Wrightsville exit. Head south to Wrightsville. At first light, turn left onto Rt 462. At bridge, bear left and go under bridge onto Rt 624. Watch for large parking area on the left by the river.

From south and east: Cross the Norman Wood Bridge on Rte 372. Turn right, north, on Rt 74; then turn right on Rte 425 and follow it about 15 miles. At the 4-way intersection in Craley, turn right onto Rte 624. Turn left at the river and continue on Rte 624 about 4.5 miles to Wrightsville. Watch for large parking area on right by river.

Directions to Hoopers: From the boat launch area, follow Rt 624 south for about 1 mile, then turn right onto Hill Rd (the M-DT also turns right). Cross Knights View Rd onto Trinity Church Rd. After 1 mile leave M-DT and turn right on Kline Run Rd. Follow road until it does a hard right. Turn left. Name is on mailbox. Follow driveway to house, cottage, two barns and swimming pool.



MASON-DIXON TRAIL SYSTEM INC

President Anthony Belfiglio

Vice President.....Jim Hooper

Secretary & Newsletter Editor...Yvonne Blades

Treasurer.....Mary Bleecker

Director - PennsylvaniaJames McCoy

Director - Maryland..... Alan Roland

Director - Delaware.....Robert Bennett

Trail Coordinators:

Western Section.....Ron Gray

Central Section.....Pat Yale

Eastern Section.....volunteer needed

The M-DTS Newsletter is published about four weeks in advance of each of the four M-DTS members' meetings/work parties held annually. Submissions are welcomed. Mail or email to editor. (See address under secretary above).

The Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. is an all-volunteer, service-oriented association of trail clubs and individual hikers that has as its purpose the use and conservation of the backcountry through the development of new trails in the mid-Atlantic states. The nucleus of M-DTS is the 190-mile Mason-Dixon Trail which passes through historic and scenic areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

New members are welcome. To join send \$15 (which includes cost of M-DT maps and patch) to

Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc
Mary Bleecker

Thereafter, the annual fee is \$5.
Life membership is available for \$250.

Visit the M-DTS web site at:

www.masondixontrail.org

It is hunting season, wear orange in the woods.

A recent Pennsylvania Game Commission regulation states that *it is unlawful for non-hunters to be present on State Game Lands from November 15 through December 15 inclusive without wearing at least a fluorescent orange hat visible from 360 degrees.* A vest or jacket of Safety Orange is recommended.

Starting October 1, there are many different hunting activities going on in Pennsylvania. *If you are out there, be aware. Wear blaze orange for safety.*

TRAIL UPDATES AND ALERTS

RELOCATION COMPLETED

M-DT Now Re-opened North of Apollo Park

It has taken 2½ years and over 1600 hours of hard labor to build a 2-mile relocation of the M-DT high above the Susquehanna River between the rocky promontory south of Cuff's Run and Apollo County Park (Map 4: West to East – Mile 7.6 to 9.7). The relocation became necessary due to change in land ownership. The trail had to be moved from relatively level land high above the river down onto the rocky slope. It was nearly all side hill work in very rocky terrain.

Access at Peach Bottom

For permission to hike on the Mason-Dixon Trail through Peach Bottom Power Station lands, (Map 5: West to East, Mile 24.9 - 26.4 East to West, Mile 3.5 - 5.7) hikers must call Peach Bottom Security, at 717/456-4212). (This is a new contact phone number. The information regarding phone number and person to contact included in the 2004 edition M-DTS maps is no longer valid). Hikers are reminded that they must stay on the trail.

Trail Improvements Near Eastern Terminus of M-DT

M-DT Map 10: West to East

Mile 13.8 Watch for left turn off Cossart Rd into wooded area. Angle left, cross bridge over deep, muddy stream then soon cross a second shallow stream on rocks. Cross pond inlet on wooden bridge etc.

14.9 Reach floodplain. Cross bridge over muddy ditch. Proceed to the banks of Brandywine Creek and follow it upstream.

15.2 Turn left and head towards elevated walkway (175 ft long) across swampy area. Cross walkway, then veer right and meander along game trails through fields overgrown with vines, shrubs and stinging nettle. Cross another short elevated walkway. Continue through fields towards railroad tracks.

15.3 Climb up to RR tracks etc

* * * * *

New Mason-Dixon Trail System Website

We invite you to visit the new Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc. website at www.masondixontrail.org. The web master is

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2005 M-DTS MEMBER'S MEETING

The meeting took place in the York Hiking Club cabin near Otter Creek following the work party. Those present for the meeting and/or work party were: president Anthony Belfiglio, secretary Yvonne Blades and Ron Gray, Jim and Joyce Hooper, Tim Schmidt, Bill Anderson and Tom Morley. The minutes of the May 7, 2005 M-DTS members' meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report (April 26 – July 27/05)

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Membership dues	\$200.00	April Newsletter	\$60.00
Sale of map/guides	36.00	500 stamped envelopes	199.00
Interest	0.96	Walkway supplies (Maerker)	956.42
	\$239.96	Walkway " (H.Blades)	22.12
		Incorporation	91.20
		Dues - Lower Susq. Grnway	25.00
			\$1353.74
Beginning balance	\$4423.13		
Ending balance	\$3306.35		

Trail Reports

Eastern Section – Eastern Terminus at Chadds Ford to Perryville Coordinators: Chester & New Castle Co. – Yvonne Blades [REDACTED] Cecil Co. – Tony Belfiglio [REDACTED]

- Rick Maerker and helpers from Chester County Trail Club have completed 4 more trail improvement projects near the eastern terminus of the M-DT: 1) a 15 foot section of elevated walkway through a wet area on the Brandywine floodplain, 2) a bridge across the slippery ditch also on the floodplain, 3) a 15 foot long bridge on a relocated section of trail near Cossart Rd that solves a very difficult stream crossing problem on the M-DT and 4) an, at grade, stream crossing utilizing rocks.
- Yvonne Blades reported that she had recently checked the elevated walkway built on the Brandywine floodplain at the May M-DTS work party. It was completely obscured by tall grasses and weeds including stinging nettle and mile-a-minute. She pulled out enough vegetation to make both ends visible but work with a weed whacker is needed to clear the walkway and the rest of the trail through the floodplain. The landowner will not allow use of herbicide in the floodplain.
- The management of Elk Neck State Forest is now under the Maryland Forestry Department. Our new contact at the forest will be [REDACTED] and her MCCC crew have been transferred from the Forest to Susquehanna State Park.
- Tony Belfiglio will talk to the 2 homeowners in Whitaker Woods who live on either side of the M-DT alignment specified by the developer.
- Tony will check on the current state of the proposed Principio Business Park that is under construction west of Whitaker Woods. There is to be a realignment of the M-DT through the site.

Central Section – Havre de Grace to Lock 12 Coordinator: Pat Yale

- Yvonne Blades would like an improved routing for the M-DT up the slope from Stafford Rd after it crosses Deer Creek Bridge in Susquehanna State Park.
- There are no new developments about the parking situation at Muddy Creek or the proposed parking lot at the junction of Papermill Rd and Route 74.

Western Section – Lock 12 to Western Terminus Coordinator: Ron Gray (717/244-8040)

- Tim Schmidt reported that the climb up from Mill Creek is overgrown. The hemlocks have died so the area now gets more sun and thus more overgrowth.
- Charles Albin has cleared the M-DT along Oakland Run.
- At today's work party south of Otter Creek, 200 feet of side hill trail construction was done along Furnace Run. An additional 40 feet of trail was pushed back from the stream bank.

- Also today, blazes were refreshed on the existing section and added on a relocated section of the M-DT between Rte 425 and Urey overlook.
- Tom Morly has blazed a relocation between Kline Rd heading north and Rte 425.
- There is trail erosion in the Gladfelter logging area.
- Ron Gray reports that work is needed on the trail between Safe Harbor and Apollo Park.
- Ron Gray has rebuilt the climb at Cuffs Run
- Jim McCoy has maintained his section between Cuffs Run and Greenbranch
- Jim Hooper has maintained his section between Greenbranch and Fishing Creek. Jim has weed wacked the Devils Hole section and reports that the ATV problem there has been stopped.
- Ron Gray reports there has been a total of 882 hours of trail work done on the Pennsylvania portion of the M-DT since November 2, 2004.

Other Business

Web Site: A motion was passed to authorize expenditure of up to \$100 before the next meeting to establish the new M-DTS website (Hooper, Gray). Dwayne Shreve, who has done a very good job with the Wilmington Trail Club website, has agreed to set up the site for us.

Incorporation: Jim Hooper has been researching the incorporation status of M-DTS. A change of address is necessary – the address at incorporation was that of Dick Tobias, now deceased. The new address will be that of Jim Hooper – change of address fee \$5. Notification and a report are required every 10 years. Jim will submit a 10 year report along with the fee of \$70.

General Membership Meeting and Picnic: M-DTS President Tony Belfiglio suggests that our spring M-DTS meeting take the form of a general membership meeting along with hikes and a picnic. Possible locations: Susquehanna State Park, Conowingo.

Trail Brochures: Ron Gray suggested putting up boxes along the trail containing special trail brochures about the need for helpers for trail maintenance. There was unanimous support for the idea. Jim Hooper will make the boxes; Ron Gray will work on the brochures.

Next Work Party and Members' Meeting: Sunday, October 30. We will work on a relocation of the M-DT off-road into Murphy's Hollow south of Wrightsville. Work party to meet at the Wrightsville boat launch at 9:00 am. The members' meeting will be at the Hooper residence at 2:00 pm.

* * * * *

**The WILMINGTON TRAIL CLUB
Presents the 14th HIKE ACROSS DELAWARE
Prepare for the Challenge: Hike the Entire Width of Delaware 14.7 Miles
Sunday, October 16, 2005**

We will meet in Delaware City and board the buses at 9:00 a.m. promptly, which will take us to the starting point at the Maryland State line near Chesapeake City. We will then hike along the north side of the C&D Canal to the Delaware River. The route lies mainly on land designated as the Canal Wildlife Zone. At the 8-mile checkpoint at St. Georges, refreshments will be available and provisions can be made to transport people back to their cars, if necessary.

East of St. Georges, the route leaves the canal into the woods and circles around the Marina. Then it returns to the canal towpath and continues on toward historic Delaware City on Clinton Street. The trees and shrubbery sporting their fall foliage combined with the opportunity for a close view of boats, ships and barges using the waterway, make for a pleasant journey along the trail

The entry fee is \$15 for WTC members and \$17 for nonmembers, which covers the cost of shuttle bus transportation, refreshments, and a patch for those who finish.

Questions: For information and registration, call [redacted] at [redacted] or email at [redacted]